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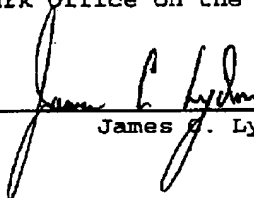
FROM: James C. Lydon

RE: Request for Refund
U.S. Patent Appln. S.N. 10/518,404
By: Fabienne HOWE et al.
Atty. Case No.: PLAS-024

TOTAL PAGES: 4 including cover sheet.

DATE: August 4, 2005

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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of:

Fabienne HOWE et al.

ATTN: Refund Section
Accounting Division
Office of Finance

Serial Number: 10/518,404

Filed: December 17, 2004

For: PROCESS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF AN ASSEMBLY
COMPRISING SEVERAL SILICONE ELEMENTS CROSSLINKED
BY POLYADDITION AND ADHERING FIRMLY TO ONE ANOTHER

REQUEST FOR REFUND PURSUANT TO 35 USC § 376

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

August 3, 2005

Sir:

The Patent Office is requested to refund \$100.00, and to credit the refund to our Deposit Account No. 50-1258. The facts supporting this Refund Request follow:

1. This application is a U.S. National Stage of International application PCT/FR03/01831.

2. The 2005 Consolidated Appropriations Act split the National fee for Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) applications entering the U.S. National Stage into a separate National fee, search fee and examination fee during fiscal years 2005 and 2006. These fees became effective December 8, 2004.

U.S. Appln. S.N. 10/518,404
REQUEST FOR REFUND

PATENT

3. This application, except for the inventors' declaration, was filed on December 17, 2004. The then-current filing fees were paid at that time, specifically including a search fee of \$500.00.

4. A PCT Search Report was provided to the Office at the time the search fee was paid (December 17, 2004).

5. The Patent Office revised its search and examination fees for PCT applications entering the National Stage in the United States on February 1, 2005. See "Revision of Search and Examination Fees for Patent Cooperation Treaty Applications Entering the National Stage in the United States," 70 Fed. Reg. 5053 (February 1, 2005) ("Interim Rule"). Importantly, the changes in the Interim Rule apply to all International applications entering the National Stage under 35 USC § 371 for which the basic National fee specified in 35 USC § 41 is paid on or after December 8, 2004.

6. The Interim Rule states the Office will refund \$100.00 (\$50.00 for small entities) if an International search report on the International application has been prepared and is provided to the Office no later than the time at which the search fee is paid.

ARGUMENT

This application satisfies the requirements set forth in the Interim Rule for refund of a portion of the search fee. More

U.S. Appln. S.N. 10/518,404
REQUEST FOR REFUND

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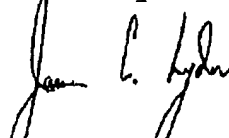
specifically, the applicants provided an International search report on the International application to the Office no later than the time at which the search fee had been paid.

ACTION REQUESTED

The Patent Office is requested to refund \$100.00 of the applicants' search fee to Deposit Account No. 50-1258.

It is not believed any fee is required for entry and consideration of this Refund Request. Nevertheless, the Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 50-1258 in the amount of any such required fee.

Respectfully submitted,



James C. Lydon
Reg. No. 30,082

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